

Positive Alternatives 2016 - 17 Quarterly Update

Grantee: Birthline

Goal: Support, encourage and assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term and in caring for their babies after birth.

For the period: June 20, 2016 through September 30, 2016

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Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
Administrative Activities	Hiring, training, volunteer coordination, staff assessment, reporting and other administrative duties.		Staff received training from the St. Cloud Sexual Assault Center on sex trafficking. Staff did a self-assessment of their job. On-going volunteer coordination.	
Outreach	Increase outreach to vulnerable populations through ads in college directories and other multilingual school-based printed materials; billboards; paid and free ads on social media venues. In person visits and presentations.		Emerge attended the 5 th Ave Block party to reach out to college age students, Events held at College of St. Bens and once per month outreach to Area Learning Center. Continued advertising with local businesses.	
Car Seat Program	The importance of correct car seat installation is discussed with all Stepping Stones clients in the one-to-one informational session. All women are provided the opportunity to attend the car seat class and may	Educ 40 Installat ion 10	Correct car seat installation is information that 30 new Stepping Stones clients received through one to one session, as well as receiving the Buckle Up brochure. Stepping Stones clients had the opportunity to take the advanced car seat safety class and receive a car seat as incentive, which 8 individuals completed during this reporting period. 2 individuals who attended the class had their own car seat, with 6	Education 30 Installation 8

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	select a car seat as an incentive item in the program.		individuals receiving a car seat as an incentive. (Note: Beginning October, Birthline will utilize a new car seat safety instructor. This instructor has additional hands-on experiences for clients to engage in within the class.)	
Case Management Services	All Stepping Stones clients receive in person mentoring and case management; Advocate services include in person and/or telephone follow up for those not enrolled in Stepping Stones.	69	78 new and on-going Stepping Stones (SS) clients (36 new and 42 on-going) received in person and mentoring and case management. 16 women received follow-up who had not yet enrolled in Stepping Stones.	94
Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education	The importance of safe sleep techniques is discussed with all Stepping Stones clients in the one-to-one informational session. In addition, all women are provided the opportunity to attend the Safe Sleep Class and may select a pack-n-play/Crib as an incentive item in the program.	Educ 40 Distribu- tion 10	30 Stepping Stones clients received one-to-one safe sleep education at their information appointments (with 3 of these clients attending Safe Sleep class during Qrt 1 and 1 new SS client attending Safe sleep class). 10 pack-n-plays were selected as incentives during this reporting period.	Education 31 Distribu- tion 10
Education Assistance	Women are provided the encouragement and assistance necessary to complete their high school or higher education. Those who select that option are given direct support in education planning and referrals to additional education counselors. Activities include completing educational goals worksheet, meet with a guidance counselor, take GED exam, complete	8	All SS participants are given the opportunity to receive assistance and encouragement to either complete their current educational plan or create a new plan. 3 women specifically identified Education as a focus goal at the beginning of their programming. In addition, 5 clients added educational as a goal throughout this time period as they found necessary (1 client enrolled in college, 2 applied for Federal Student Aid, 3 researched technical college training programs, and 2 clients were referred to CNA educational programs).	8

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	FAFSA, and ESL classes.			
Employment Assistance	Women are provided the encouragement and assistance necessary to improve their employment status. Those who select this option are provided resources for career planning and work stations to develop skills and search for employment. Topics covered are resume/cover letter writing, filling out employment application, visit DEED website and more.	14	This quarter, 5 women specifically identified employment as their focus goals and additional clients actively worked on employment activities including: 1 individual obtained their library card, 2 completed job interviews during this time frame, 1 sought out staffing services, 3 clients maintained detailed job search logs with applications, and 2 clients utilized the Deed website for further employment information. Note: Through another grant opportunity, we have been able to improve our workstation through the purchase of two iPads for client learning.	14
Life-Skills Education Program	Women and fathers are provided the opportunity to attend a wide variety of life skills education classes and one-to-one sessions, such as financial literacy and budgeting, sexual integrity, healthy relationships, apartment and home rental, etc.	30	40 women and fathers attended specific classes and/or completed activities related to this area and were discussed during the one to one session.	40
Material Support	All women are provided an opportunity to receive a free \$25 voucher to be used at Treasure Chest Thrift Store for maternity clothing and infant supplies. Emergency layettes are provided on an as needed basis.	50	All 57 new intake clients are provided the opportunity to receive a Treasure Chest voucher (26 women chose to receive a voucher). 3 additional women received an emergency layette with diapers and other infant necessities. 2 women received emergency diapers.	62

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	All Stepping Stones participants can earn additional material supplies, such as diapers, infant clothing, infant care items and adult care items.			
Mental Health	Women are provided referrals or assistance obtaining mental health assessment, counseling and treatment programs.	6	During the initial assessment and goal setting, 6 women reported a need for advanced mental health resources and specifically identified this as a goal and our Client Advocate/SS staff provided information for referrals to a mental health professional and encouraged follow through for 2 additional individuals.	8
Parenting Education	All parenting women have access to classroom-based parenting programs, self-paced parenting videos, and individual worksheet assignments. Activities include Baby Bootcamp for infant care education, age appropriate discipline, bonding with baby, co-parenting with father, etc. All are provided referrals and assistance for additional education if needed	50	43 women took part in a variety of parenting classes/educational opportunities offered this quarter. 3 teenage clients received referrals to Pathways Early Learning Scholarship.	46
Pregnancy Education	All women enrolled in Stepping Stones are provided information on smoking cessation, alcohol/drug cessation and prenatal nutrition. Women may elect to attend additional prenatal classes that cover healthy infant development from conception to birth, and childbirth education class. Doula services are	50	All 30 SS info participants received one to one education on these prenatal health topics; (Of those, 7 women attended Childbirth Education classes, 2 attended Doula information class and 3 women requested and received doula services). In addition, all parenting women have access to parenting classes and referrals.	30

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	<p>available to all women.</p> <p>All parenting women have access to classroom-based parenting programs, self-paced parenting videos, individual educational activities; and are provided referrals and assistance for additional education as needed.</p>			
Medical Services/ Pregnancy Testing	Pregnancy tests and/or program needs assessment are offered at initial intake; referrals and support for ultrasound and prenatal exams (pregnancy tests are not paid by PAG). Prenatal vitamins are offered to all pregnant women. Pregnancy options counseling is provided, referrals to adoption agency as needed.	50	All (57) new clients were offered the option of taking a pregnancy test at the initial intake assessment (7 individuals opted to take a pregnancy test).	57
Provide Necessary Services to All Clients	<p>Provide intake assessment to determine need.</p> <p>Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support services as identified by MDH.</p> <p>Utilize resource database to provide information and make referrals</p>	40	There were 57 women who received intake assessments consisting of securing necessary services. Referrals to community organizations were provided.	57

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Provide Necessary Services Assessments Only	Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support services. Utilize resource database to provide information and make referrals	1	All new clients were provided with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support services and only 1 client only received necessary services assessment only.	1
Transportation Assistance	Women are provided the opportunity to receive gas gift cards or bus passes as an incentive item (or emergency support) to support their transportation needs.	10	All Stepping Stones participants were given the opportunity to receive gas cards or bus passes as an incentive; 15 gas gift cards and 3 bus passes were chosen as an incentive in their programming; with 2 bus pass being received for emergency support.	20

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	6
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	2
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	30
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	10
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	34

Challenges:

Historical data has shown an increase in the number of clients served in the center as we transition from the summer months. With the seasonal weather changing and the return of students to the area schools, our numbers generally increase. We are also engaging in additional outreach to share information and educate others of our Stepping Stones services. Mike spoke at three area events during this reporting period, illustrating the work of the Stepping Stones Program to increase awareness. The largest of the speaking engagements reached over 100 individuals in one afternoon.

An additional challenge that we faced at the end of this reporting period was the resignation of our Client Advocate in September. As a result, roles and responsibilities have been shuffled internally to meet the needs of scheduling. This has caused a slight delay in the time frame in which clients are seen in the office. This is actively being addressed by the reallocation of work responsibilities to ensure clients have adequate scheduling opportunities until the position can be filled.

Comments: